



SCÉALA

Newsletter for the Gaelic-American Club
74 Beach Road, Fairfield CT 06824
www.gaconline.org



CÉAO MÍLE FÁILTE One Hundred Thousand Welcomes ❁❁❁ December 2025 | Nollaig

Dear Members of the Gaelic American Club,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2026, I want to thank you for placing your trust in me once again. It is an honor to continue serving as President and I remain committed to supporting the traditions, culture, and community spirit that make our Club so special.

I also want to acknowledge an important opportunity ahead. Only about 6% of our membership participated in this year's election. One of my goals for 2026 is to increase member engagement—not just at election time, but throughout the year. Your voice and involvement matter for the future of our club.

Looking back on 2025, I can proudly say it was the best Executive Committee I've been part of. I'm very happy that the entire team will be returning for 2026, bringing continuity, enthusiasm and experience to the year ahead.

As winter settles in, I encourage you to continue enjoying everything our Club has to offer.

Come in out of the cold, gather with friends, enjoy the music, food, and warmth of our community. Here's to another wonderful year!

Slainté!

Tom Harding
President, Gaelic American Club

2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL BEGINS ON JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDS ON FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

2026 Membership Renewal begins on January 1, 2026 and ends on February 28, 2026.

Current members in good standing will receive an email on January 2, with details and instructions on how to renew online. Anyone who does not have an email on file, and those who requested it, will receive a paper copy of the renewal form in the mail.

Scrip expires on 2/28/26. Please do not wait until the last minute to discover your card is not working. After February 15th, we cannot guarantee card replacement in time to use Scrip before the deadline.

Email us at membership@gacemail.org anytime.



Elaine Halliday's Free writing workshop where students learn how to write targeted, successful letters of continued interest (LOCIs). Elaine will share previous students' successful LOCIs, help them brainstorm and list updates that reveal their academic and extracurricular achievements since their October & November early applications.

Date to be Announced.

FIRST FRIDAY TRAD MUSIC SESSION WITH JAMES MCINERNEY JANUARY 2ND 6-8PM



James has been playing button accordion since childhood and is a first generation Irish-American born and raised in Fairfield. His Father Jim hailed from County Galway and his mother Joan hails from County Kerry. A lifelong member of the Gaelic American Club, he has played throughout the tri-state area for step dancers, ceilis and other events for decades. James is currently a member of the traditional Irish music band Ceol Agus Craic (Gaelic for Music and Fun) who is proud to call the GAC home. James is also a founding member of the Shamrock Traditional Music Society.



TRIVIA NIGHT JANUARY 2ND @ 8PM

Be there at 8pm and be ready to unleash that random knowledge and join us for another fun filled night - and remember to wear white.

MUSIC IN THE PUB

Friday Jan. 2 ~ Herman & Co.
Saturday Jan.3 ~ Once Removed
Friday Jan. 9 ~ No Strings Attached
Saturday Jan. 10 ~ Keltic Kick
Friday Jan. 16 ~ Night Visitors
Saturday Jan.17 ~ Mostly Green
Friday Jan. 23 ~ Sharon and Her Band
Saturday Jan. 24 ~ Juliet's Run
Friday Jan. 30 ~ Fake ID
Saturday Jan. 31 ~ Mike McGovern



25 CARD GAME

Sunday Jan 18th @ noon. New players are welcome and we'll teach you to play this traditional Irish game.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in working on the By-Laws Committee please contact Cathy Austin at caustin@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Executive Committee can be reached at executive@gacemail.org. They meet the Tuesday prior to the Monthly Membership meetings.

The next Monthly Membership meeting is January 9th @8pm.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

The white membership card with your name and 5 digit number is used for both entering the club and scrip. DO NOT DISCARD AFTER USING UP YOUR SCRIP. \$10 replacement fee for lost cards. Mail or drop off payment with your info to the Attn: Membership.

MEMBER TO MEMBER MARKETPLACE

Place your professional listing in the Member to Member Marketplace on www.gaconline.org by contacting communications@gacemail.org. And when you need a business or trade service, check the list and support your fellow members.

DART NIGHT

The Group meets Wednesday's at 7pm.

FÁILTE COMMITTEE

FAILTE needs more volunteers to ensure the Front Door has coverage. We have a large membership - surely we can get some more volunteers! Please sign up for the best seat in the house! betteleary@gmail.com.

FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

The group practices Mondays at 6:30pm in the Carolan Room of the GAC. For more info visit fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org or call 475-329-0202.

IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Irish Literature Group will meet on January 15th and to discuss *Belonging* by Catherine Corliss. The book is part memoir and part the story of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home. All are welcome! maryellenkeresey@gmail.com.

GENEALOGY GROUP

FRÉAMH ÉIREANN

The group will meet January 10th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mass Cards were sent to:

Terry Buckingham and family on the passing of her husband, **Franklin**
The family of **Patrick O'Connell**

Deceased member plaques were engraved for:

Patrick O'Connell

Mary Henwood, Franklin Buckingham.

GOOD NEWS:

Chris and Carol Collins are first time grandparents to **Cameron Vinci Collins** who arrived on October 19th. He is the great grandson of the late **Tom Murray** and **Tim and Mary Murray O'Shea**, long time club members.

Molly Kallaway and husband **Griff Alfaro** welcomed a son;

Rory Bergin Alfaro on December 16th.

Notify **Mary Alvarez** of all member news at alvarezmp@icloud.com.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Meets at the GAC every 3rd Thursday of the month. The AOH is a fraternal group that mixes social functions and Christian charity. To join contact **Tom Donohue** at tdonohue@slwmco.com or visit the website www.aohjfk.com.

TRAD MUSIC SESSION

The Shamroques host an Irish Trad Music Night on Wednesdays (7-9pm). All are welcome, to play or just listen.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Contact manager@gacemail.org

IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

•Intermediate Class -

Thursdays at 6:45 pm via Zoom.

•Beginners II Class - Tuesdays at 6 pm.

•Beginners I Class - Sundays from 5-6 pm. For more info contact **Robin Griskus** - 203 233 4979

CELTIC ART INSTRUCTIONAL CLASS

In January the class will cover Celtic Design Pattern called "Spirals", it's another opportunity for first timers to join in, Contact DesNolan@Optimum.net. to get pre-class handouts by email.

SENIOR LUNCH

Join us for Senior Lunch on Thursday, Jan 29th at 12PM. Reservations are required by Sunday, 01/25. Please call: **Sally Savage**: 203-366-4826 or **Lisa Winkel**: 203-259-0766
\$9 for members | non-members \$11.

SET DANCING

We're back on the dance floor every Thursday's at 7pm. For more info: **Brian Reynolds** 203-214-2921.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Library Work Day is Jan 15th from 11 to 1pm contact **Maryellen Lyons** maryellen.lyons@outlook.com

BLOOD DRIVE JAN 2ND 9 TO 2PM

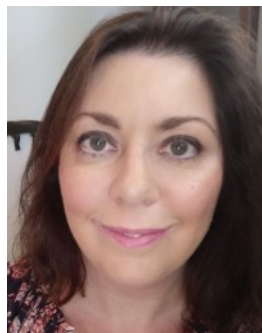
contact Red Cross first at www.redcrossblood.org



IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM ANNOUNCES 2ND ANNUAL FOUNDERS' GALA

The Gala is planned for May 2nd at the Galic American Club
For more info visit www.IGHMF.org

STAIR NA HÉIREANN | IRISH HISTORY LECTURE FEBRUARY 1ST 2026 @ 2PM WITH ELIZABETH STACK, PHD, CONTESTED CITIZENS: IRISH AND GERMAN IMMIGRANTS



Elizabeth Stack, PhD, Director of Education at Celtic Junction Arts Center in St. Paul, MN. Dr. Stack is the recent recipient of the 2025 Heroes of Irish America Award. She was the Executive Director of the American Irish Historical Society in New York City and prior to that was executive director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, NY.

Elizabeth Stack will explore the subject of how the two largest immigrant groups chose to define their ethnic identity amidst myriad Americanization policies, making it possible for other groups to be ethnic Americans.

(Read more: <https://gaconline.org/stair-na-heireann/>)

Tickets - \$5.00 (Students with ID \$2 | Sorry no GAC script or credit cards)



January Dollars 2026

Kitchen hours

Mon - Closed
Tues - Closed
Wed & Thurs 4 - 9pm
Friday 4 - 10pm
Saturday 12 - 10pm
Sunday 12 - 8pm

pub hours


Mon - Closed
Tues - Closed
Wed & Thurs 4 - 10pm
Friday 4pm - 12am
Saturday Noon - 12pm
Sunday Noon - 9pm

how to reach us

Office (203) 254-0673
Fax (203) 254-3012
Pub Emergencies (203) 254-2723
Membership (203) 256-0380
Social (203) 418-7676
Website www.gaconline.org

Céao nua
fáilte



Sunday Domhnach	Monday Luan	Tuesday Máirt	Wednesday Céadaoin	Thursday Deardaoin	Friday Aoine	Saturday Satharn
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4 Please Remember to Sign in all Your Guests	5 Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm	6 Ex. Committee Meeting 7pm Lenihan Dance Lessons 4pm Children - Adult 8pm	7 Trad Music Session 7-9pm Dart Night 7pm	 8 Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	2 Blood Drive 9-2pm Trivia @ 8pm First Friday Trad Musician James McInerney 6-8pm Herman & Co. 8:30pm in the Pub	3 Once Removed 8:30pm in the Pub
11 Beginners Irish 5-6pm	12 Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm	13 Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	14 Trad Music Session 7-9pm Dart Night 7pm	15 Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Irish Literature Group 7pm Set Dancing 7pm	9 Membership Meeting 8pm No Strings Attached 8:30pm in the Pub	10 Genealogy Group 10:30am Keltic Kick 8:30pm in the Pub
18 25 Card Game 12 noon Beginners Irish 5-6pm	19 Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm	20 Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	21 Trad Music Session 7-9pm Dart Night 7pm	22 Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	16 Night Visitors 8:30pm in the Pub	17 Mostly Green 8:30pm in the Pub
25 Beginners Irish 5-6pm	26 Gaelic Pipe Band 6:30pm	27 Lenihan Dance Lessons Children 4pm - Adult 8pm Irish Language II 6pm	28 Trad Music Session 7-9pm Dart Night 7pm	29 Senior Lunch 12noon Irish Language (via zoom) 6:45pm Set Dancing 7pm	23 Sharon and Her Band 8:30pm in the Pub	24 Juliet's Run 8:30pm in the Pub
					30 Family Fun Night 6-9pm Fake ID 8:30pm in the Pub	31 Mike McGovern 8:30pm in the Pub





**2026 GRAND MARSHAL'S
GALA HONORING
THOMAS KEANE**

**Saturday January 24th
from 6-11pm**

Vazzano's Four Seasons
Stratford CT
Dinner, Open Bar & Dancing
Music by the Night Visitors

\$150 per person
Tables of 10 - \$1,500
For more information visit:
stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com

Support Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade

ST. PATRICK'S FOOTBALL & HURLING CLUB NEWS

The club will again host it's annual
Introduction to Gaelic Sports

An energetic introduction to Gaelic sports, including
Football and Hurling for kids of all ages

The 90 minute session (4-5:30P) is geared towards
kids ages 5-8 to learn the basics and burn some energy. The session also serves as training for the
upcoming season. For more information

Visit stpatricksgfc.org

**SHAMROCK TRADITIONNAL IRISH MUSIC SOCIETY'S
SPRING CONCERT SERIES STARTS
Saturday, March 7, 7:30 pm with
Mary Courtney, Patrick Madden, Jack Ryan
(\$22 online | \$25 at the door)**

Mary Courtney (guitar, vocals) grew up in a musical family in the parish of Castlegregory, near the sea in County Kerry, a likely beginning for this remarkable singer and guitarist. Whether accompanying herself, or holding the rhythm line with her trad band, Morning Star, she is a consummate musician.

Patrick Madden (fiddle) is a first-generation Irish-American, born and raised in Queens, New York. As a dancer, he was introduced to traditional Irish music and went on to learn the fiddle under the tutelage of the great Maureen Glynn. He has been playing with Mary Courtney and Morningstar for over a decade.

Jack Ryan (whistle) was born in the Bronx and began playing the whistle at age eight. He initially learned from his father, who taught himself the instrument to pass it along to his children. Jack went on to study Irish music under Dawn Doherty, who was born in Co. Mayo and runs the Dawn Doherty Academy of Irish Music, based in Yonkers. Jack has competed multiple times at the Fleadh Cheoil in Ireland.

For more information to www.shamrockirishmusic.org

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